

Message Text

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TAGS: PORC, PDEV, PGOV, FR, NH, UK, UN
SUBJECT: JOINT FRENCH-BRITISH STATEMENT ON FUTURE CON-
STITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS IN THE NEW HEBRIDES

UN SECRETARIAT HAS CIRCULATED IN DOCUMENT A/32/172,
19 AUGUST 1977, CORRESPONDENCE TO SECRETARY GENERAL
FROM PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES OF FRANCE AND UK REGARDING
FUTURE CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS IN THE NEW HEBRIDES.
A REFERENDUM REGARDING INDEPENDENCE IS SCHEDULED FOR
SECOND HALF OF 1980. TEXT OF DOCUMENT A/32/172 FOLLOWS:

QUOTE

LETTER DATED 3 AUGUST 1977 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES
OF FRANCE AND THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN
IRELAND TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-
GENERAL

WE HAVE THE HONOUR TO INFORM YOU THAT A MEETING WAS
HELD IN PARIS FROM 19 TO 21 JULY 1977 BETWEEN REPRESENT-
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TATIVES OF THE TWO ADMINISTERING POWERS AND A NEW
HEBRIDEAN DELEGATION IN ORDER TO DISCUSS FUTURE
CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS IN THE TERRITORY AND THAT
THE ENCLOSED JOINT STATEMENT WAS ISSUED AT ITS CON-
CULSION.

WE SHOULD BE GRATEFUL IF THIS LETTER AND ITS ENCLOSURE COULD BE CIRCULATED AS A DOCUMENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY UNDER ITEM 24 OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA.

(SIGNED) JACQUES LEPRETE (SIGNED) IVOR RICHARD
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF FRANCE TO THE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF
UNITED NATIONS GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN
IRELAND TO THE UNITED NATIONS
UNQUOTE

QUOTE

ANNEX

JOINT STATEMENT ON FUTURE CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS
IN THE NEW HEBRIDES

DELEGATIONS OF THE TWO METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENTS,
LED RESPECTIVELY BY MR. OLIVIER STIRN, STATE SECRETARY
TO THE MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR IN CHARGE OF
OVERSEAS DEPARTMENTS AND TERRITORIES, AND THE RIGHT
HONOURABLE LORD GORONWY-ROBERTS, MINISTER OF STATE
FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS, HELD DISCUSSIONS
IN PARIS ON FUTURE CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS
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IN THE NEW HEBRIDES. THEY WERE ASSISTED BY REPRESENTATIVES
OF NEW HEBRIDEAN POLITICAL GROUPS AND THE CHIEFS OF THE
MALFATU MAURI. THEY REGRETTED THAT THE LEADERS OF THE
VANUAAKU PARTY FINALLY DECIDED NOT TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE.
HOWEVER, THEY TRIED THEIR BEST TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE VIEWS
OF THE PARTY IN SO FAR AS THESE WERE KNOWN TO THEM.

THE TWO GOVERNMENTS AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

(A) NEW ELECTIONS WOULD BE HELD FOR THE REPRESENTATIVE
ASSEMBLY BEFORE 1 DECEMBER 1977: BECAUSE OF THE LIMITED
TIME AVAILABLE TO MAKE THE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS, THE
CURRENT ELECTORAL RULES AND THE PRESENT VOTING AGE WOULD
BE MAINTAINED FOR THE ELECTION;

(B) THEY WOULD HOLD ANOTHER MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE IN
VILA IN DECEMBER 1977 OR JANUARY 1978: THE PURPOSE OF THIS
MEETING WOULD BE TO CONSULT THE MEMBERS OF THE NEW
REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY, AND IN THE LIGHT OF THEIR VIEWS
TO DECIDE ON HOW THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS WOULD BE COMPOSED
AND A DETAILED TIME-TABLE CONVENING

THE STAGES LEADING TO INDEPENDENCE;

(C) A SYSTEM OF INTERNAL SELF-GOVERNMENT WOULD BE SET UP IN THE FIRST MONTHS OF 1978 AND FOR THIS PURPOSE DECISIONS WERE TAKEN ABOUT THE RESPECTIVE POWERS OF THE BODIES ELECTED TO REPRESENT THE POPULATION OF THE NEW HEBRIDES AND OF THE METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENTS;

(D) NEW ELECTIONS AND A REFERENDUM WOULD BE HELD DURING THE SECOND HALF OF 1980. IN THE REFERENDUM THE POPULATION WOULD BE ASKED TO DECIDE WHETHER THEY WISHED TO PROCEED TO INDEPENDENCE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRINCIPLE OF SELF-DETERMINATION. IF THEY SO DECIDED, INDEPENDENCE WOULD THEN BE PROCLAIMED. UNQUOTE UNCLASSIFIED

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